

Appn. No.: 09/936,820
Docket No.: 66418-066-7
Amdt. Dated Aug. 17, 04
Reply to Office action of Apr. 23, 04

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-18 (Cancelled).

19-37 (Cancelled).

38. (Cancel)

39. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim [[38]] 55, wherein the inner lid [[(5)]] consists of a first layer for sealing against the edge of the container, wherein the first layer consists of a soft thermoplastic elastomer, and wherein the inner lid [[(5)]] also consists of a second layer having gas barrier properties.

40. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 39, wherein the inner lid [[(5)]] consists of a third layer consisting of thermoplastics which covers the second layer, said third layer consisting of thermoplastics which covers the second layer, said third layer making contact with the outer lid.

41. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 40, wherein the second layer consists of aluminium.

42. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 41, wherein the first layer consists of low density polyolefins.

43. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 42, wherein the first layer consists of a low density polyethylenes.

44. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 43, wherein the third layer consists of polyolefins.

45. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 44, wherein the third layer consists of polyethylene.

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46. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 44, wherein the third layer consists of polypropylene.

47. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 44, wherein the third layer consists of ethylene vinyl acetate plastics.

48. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 44, wherein the third layer consists of polyester.

49. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 35, wherein the diameter of the inner lid [[(5)]] is larger than the external diameter of the container neck [[(2)]], but simultaneously smaller than the internal diameter of the outer lid, said protrusion [[(13)]] of the collar [[(13)]] extending radially toward the centre until the external diameter of the package neck [[(2)]].

50. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 49, wherein the inner lid [[(5)]] has a hole for pressure equalization between the volume of the container [[(15)]] and a volume between the outer lid and the inner lid [[(5)]].

51. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 50, wherein a seal sealing against the outer lid is provided around an opening in the inner lid [[(5)]], said outer lid having a subarea above the opening of the inner lid [[(5)]] which is deflected by a pressure difference.

52. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 49, wherein the centre of the inner lid [[(5)]] is secured to the outer lid with a rotatable securing means [[(19)]], wherein a container vacuum through

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the inner lid [[(5)]] pulls the centre of the outer lid [[(6)]] downwards, thereby deflecting a subarea of the outer lid.

53. (Currently amended) A lid assembly according to claim 52, wherein the collar [[(3)]] of the lid [[(1)]] has an inwardly directed annular ring [[(14)]] as a securing means for the inner lid [[(5)]], said ring extending in an oblique direction relative to the inner lid [[(5)]].

54. (Currently amended) A method of opening a lid assembly according to claim [[38]] 55, by means of twisting it off the neck of the container, wherein during the twisting off of the lid a pointwise upwardly directed pressure is created on the edge of the inner lid, an opening to the volume of the container thus being created and the volume being vented.

55. (New) A lid assembly for closing an opening in a neck of a container, said lid assembly comprising an outer lid member and an inner lid member,

 said outer lid member consisting of a top part and a cylindrical collar, said cylindrical collar defining inwardly-extending threads and a single inwardly-extending protrusion which is located below the inner lid member at a level of an upper edge of the neck of the container when the lid assembly is attached to the container, and

 said inner lid member comprising a multilayered sheet having an upper layer and a lower layer, said upper layer having a first relatively low friction coefficient with said outer lid and said lower layer having a

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second relatively higher friction coefficient with the upper edge of the neck of the container,

wherein during removal of the neck assembly from a container the outer lid member is rotated relative to the neck of the container and said protrusion will exert an upward pressure against an edge of the inner lid member to cause the inner lid member to be pointwise separated from the upper edge of the neck as the outer lid member is rotated.